

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

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FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PLOS  
SUBJECT: LOS: STATEMENT BY DESMOND SCOTT, REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATING GROUP 6 TUESDAY 29 AUGUST 1978

QUOTE: AS A RESULT OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE  
AT THE FINAL PLENARY SESSION IN GENEVA, THE PRESIDENT,  
THROUGH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR. ZULETA, REQUESTED THE IOC AND OTHER COMPETENT  
INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO CARRY OUT TWO TASKS:

I) TO SHOW THE EFFECTS OF THE APPLICATION OF A PROPOSAL BY  
THE USSR ON THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF (THIS  
WAS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT C.2/INFORMAL MEETING/14 DATED  
27 APRIL 1978) ON THE MAP ALREADY PREPARED FOR THE CONFERENCE AND ISSUED EARLIER IN THIS SESSION IN GENEVA; AND

II) TO CARRY OUT A STUDY OF THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE TIME REQUIRED TO  
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PRODUCE MAPS ON A LARGER SCALE (1 TO 10 MILLION) OF THE  
ATLANTIC, PACIFIC, INDIAN AND ARCTIC OCEANS, SHOWING THE  
EFFECTS OF THE THREE DIFFERENT FORMULAE FOR DEFINING THE  
OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

THE TWO TASKS WERE ACCEPTED BY THE IOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
AT ITS TENTH SESSION IN JUNE AND THE SECRETARY WAS

INSTRUCTED TO ARRANGE FOR THEM TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY, WORKING IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION.

SO FAR AS THE FIRST TASK IS CONCERNED, THE WORK WAS, AS BEFORE, CONTRACTED OUT TO THE LAMONT-DOHERTY GEOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY. HOWEVER, DIFFICULTIES WERE ENCOUNTERED WITH THE INTERPRETATION OF SOME ASPECTS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL AND CLARIFICATION WAS REQUESTED. THE SECRETARIAT UNDERTOOK APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS FROM WHICH IT EMERGED THAT UNDER THE USSR SUGGESTION IN INFORMAL DOCUMENT C.2/INFORMAL MEETING/14, A LINE ILLUSTRATING THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE SHELF, WHERE THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN EXTENDS BEYOND THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, COULD BE DRAWN ONLY IN CASES WHERE SCIENTIFIC DATA CONFIRMED SUCH A CONFORMATION OF THE MARGIN. IT ALSO EMERGED FROM THESE CONSULTATIONS THAT THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT REGARDING PORTIONS OF THE MARGIN LINE ILLUSTRATED ON THE EXISTING MAP. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS SITUATION, IT HAS NOT PROVED POSSIBLE TO GIVE ADEQUATE GUIDANCE TO THOSE WHO WOULD BE ENTRUSTED WITH DRAWING THE RELEVANT LINES ON THE EXISTING MAP.

TURNING NOW TO THE SECOND TASK, A SMALL AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF FIVE LEADING EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN FORMED TO CARRY OUT THE STUDY REQUESTED. IT IS PLANNED THAT THE GROUP'S REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN TIME FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE.

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I NOW WISH TO ADD SOMETHING CONCERNING THE EXISTING MAP. PREPARATION OF ACCURATE MAPS AND CHARTS IS NOT A TASK THAT CAN BE HURRIED. THERE HAS TO BE A GREAT DEAL OF CHECKING AND CROSS-CHECKING FROM DATA SOURCES WHICH MAY EXIST IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS. NEW DATA COME IN DAILY, CHANGING AND IMPROVING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE GEOMORPHOLOGY OF THE SEA-FLOOR. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THEREFORE THAT IN THIS CASE WHERE A GLOBAL MAP HAD TO BE PREPARED TO A SHORT, AND I MIGHT ADD SOMEWHAT UNREASONABLE, DEADLINE, A NUMBER OF ERRORS AND OMISSIONS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY COME TO LIGHT AND BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARIATS.

ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARIATS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION AND THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION, I APOLOGIZE FOR THE FACT THAT THESE ERRORS WERE ALLOWED TO SLIP PAST THE REVIEWING PROCESS. MOST OF THESE ARE GEOGRAPHICAL IN NATURE - OMISSION OF ISLANDS AND SUCHLIKE, BUT WE ACCEPT THAT ONE, IN THE BAY OF BENGAL, IS A DEFINITE ERROR IN THE APPLICATION OF THE IRISH FORMULA TO THE AREA WEST OF THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS. I HAVE ASKED THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT TO PUBLISH A LIST

OF THESE ERRORS AS A CONFERENCE DOCUMENT. UNQUOTE.  
LEONARD

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